(b) The average all-India ex-factory price of levy sugar based on the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the 1996-97 season and conversion cost as recommended by BICP, works out to Rs. 1000.77 per quintal. Estimated export price, FOB Bombay will depend upon the prevailing world market condition at the time of making the sales.

Steep fall in Rubber Prices

*32. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the price of rubber has crashed down from Rs. 61/- per kg. to Rs. 44/- per kg.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the steep fall in price and the steps Government intend to take to raise the price of rubber to remunerative level;

(c) whether Government would direct STC to enter in the field and purchase at least 10,000 tonnes of rubber and stock it for three months; and

(d) the special incentives given by Government to traders who are willing to export rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The price of natural rubber in the domestic market has been declining steadily since June 1995, when an all time high monthly average of Rs. 6171 per quintal was reached for RSS-IV grade rubber.

(b) Since the prices have not come down to unremunerative level, Government intervention is not required.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No exportable surplus of Natural Rubber is available in the country. Special incentives for export is therefore, not proposed. Moreover, the international price of natural Rubber continues to be lower than the domestic price.

Recommendations of Chari Committee

*33. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minsiter of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the recommendations of the Chair Committee appointed on integrated coal policy;

(b) if so, details of the recommendations accepted by Government for implementation;

(c) the decision taken by Government in regard to evaluation of relative costs for thermal power generation with different fuels at different representative locations including at pitheads and load centres;

(d) whether it has been decided to inspect the coal delivery at the power and in order to eliminate pilferage and the dispute arising between the coal company and the S.E.Bs.; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy, the Government have taken the following decisions:—

(i) Deregulation of the prices and distribution of D Grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke with immediate effect.

(ii) Allowing Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal till 1st January, 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

(iii) Allowing CIL and SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G Grades of non-coking coal in relation with the market prices and to distribute these grades of coal after 1st January, 2000.

Subject to legislative changes wherever necessary, the Government have also taken following decisions:

(i) Setting up of an independent body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

(ii) Allocation of new blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process in which Indian companies including nationalised coal companies may participate.

(iii) Establishment of a Regulatory Body which would perform an appellate function to resolve the price disputes between the producers and the consumers.

As regards the recommendations of the Committee for certain exemptions from the Notifications issued under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Government have decided that the same may be processed as provided under the law and the regulations thereunder. Government have further decided that while leasing out areas to the private sector care should be taken that the infrastructure created by the public sector is not allowed to be used freely by the former.

(c) As per information received from Ministry of Power, various aspects are kept in mind while setting up a thermal power station such as availability of land, water, fuel, existing pollution level, etc. Government encourages coal based stations at pithead and gas/liquid based stations in environment sensitive areas. While evaluating the project proposal, least cost option is considered by Central Electricity Authority before according Techno Economic Clearance to the project.

(d) and (e) Coal is supplied by coal companies on free on rail/free on board colliery basis. The ownership of coal changes as soon as the loading of coal into the container of the carrier i.e. wagons or trucks of the purchaser is completed. The railways and road transporters are the carriers on behalf of the purchasers. As such, coal companies have no information regarding enroute losses of coal.

Import of Goods without Licence

*34. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new customs provisions allow import of goods without licence if the goods are to be re-exported with a value addition of 10% or more;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to check the misuse of these provisions by many importers; and

(c) the action taken against those held responsible;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) There is no provision in the Customs Act, 1962, permitting import of goods without a licence if the goods are to be re-exported with a value addition of 10% or more. However, as per paragraph 128-A of the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition: March, 1996) introduced in the Policy with effect from 26th March, 1996, goods including those appearing in the Negative List of Imports or negative List of Exports (except prohibited items in either list) may be imported for re-export without a licence subject to the conditions that (a) there is a minimum value addition of 10%; (b) the goods shall be imported under Customs Bond; (c) import and re-export shall be made from the same Customs Bonded premises; and (d) the goods shall not be taken outside the Customs bonded premises. Thus adequate safeguards have